NEBRASKA
WEATHER & CROPS

For Week Ending July 24, 1994

NEBRASKA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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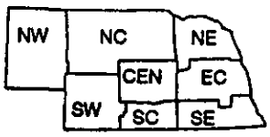
National Weather Service



Nebraska Department of Agriculture
Division of Agr'l. Statistics
Cooperative Extension Service
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and Natural Resources–UN-L

WEATHER

Average temperatures for the week were two to five degrees below normal. Rainfall was scattered over the State with amounts ranging from a trace upward to one and a half inches.

GENERAL

Another week of favorable growing conditions for crops allowed crop development to continue at a faster than normal pace and allowed an improvement in the overall condition of crops, according to the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Grasshopper activity has been noted in several areas with chemical control underway. Reports indicated that the largest infestations were in the northwest and southwest districts. Producer activities included weed control, hay harvest, and moving farm-stored grain to market.

CROPS

Winter wheat harvest was virtually complete by week's end. This was well ahead of last year at 29% and the 5-year average at 75%. Damp weather again last week slowed harvest progress, but by the end of the week, combining was in full swing.

The all corn condition improved last week and was rated at 10% fair, 62% good, and 28% excellent. Irrigated and dryland corn condition were each rated at 90% good or excellent. Plant development continued at a rapid pace with silking about two and a half weeks ahead of normal. Fields in or beyond the dough stage were a week and a half ahead of normal. Dryland fields in western areas which were drought stressed were developing slower than the normal pace.

CROPS (Cont.)

Soybean condition also improved last week and was rated at 5% fair, 63% good, and 32% excellent. Weed control was the major activity as producers were walking fields and using bean bars. Weed growth has been a problem in many fields since the last cultivation. Plant development continued ahead of normal. Soybeans blooming at 90% was about two and a half weeks ahead of normal and setting pods at 34% about two weeks ahead of normal.

Sorghum condition was rated at 1% poor, 6% fair, 64% good, and 29% excellent, an improvement from the previous week. Weed control measures were necessary in many fields and were ongoing. Heading at 35% complete was rated about two weeks ahead of normal.

Oat harvest progressed to 82% complete as of Sunday. This compared to 6% last year and 56% for the 5-year average.

Dry bean condition was rated at 36% fair, 54% good, and 10% excellent. Crop development moved rapidly with 79% blooming to date and 18% setting pods.

Alfalfa condition was rated at 1% very poor, 1% poor, 25% fair, 62% good, and 11% excellent. Second cutting activities were 90% complete by week's end, well ahead of last year and the average. Wild hay condition was rated at 1% very poor, 7% poor, 42% fair, 42% good, and 8% excellent. Harvest remained active.

LIVESTOCK

Pasture and range condition improved again last week and was rated at 91% of normal and compares with 103% last year. Although pastures were greening up and regrowth occurring, some western producers were still moving cattle between pastures, if possible, to help grasses revive as much as possible.

FIELD WORK PROGRESS AS OF JULY 24, 1994	AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS DISTRICTS								STATE	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR	AVER-AGE
	NW	NC	NE	C	EC	SW	SC	SE				
% corn silked	80	81	93	100	97	90	98	100	95	66	28	54
% corn dough stage	2	6	9	25	17	11	13	16	14	5	0	4
% sorghum headed	0	30	20	19	36	29	41	35	35	9	0	10
% soybeans blooming	0	94	92	78	85	84	91	100	90	76	31	51
% soybeans setting pods	0	33	25	32	29	26	41	54	34	9	5	8
% alfalfa second cutting	66	87	94	100	96	89	91	100	90	72	39	70
% wheat harvested	99	99	96	93	100	100	100	100	99	91	29	75
% oats harvested	40	83	81	86	92	91	96	100	82	55	6	56
% dry beans blooming	86	97	89	80	0	61	85	0	79	32	29	n/a
% dry beans podded	18	34	3	0	0	16	0	0	18	13	1	n/a
DAYS SUITABLE AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION AS OF JULY 22, 1994												
Days suitable	5.3	6.4	5.1	5.3	5.4	4.8	3.9	4.6	5.0	3.8	1.8	
Topsoil moisture (Percent) - Short	50	0	0	0	5	20	8	27	14	12	1	
- Adequate	50	100	88	100	81	80	92	73	81	72	26	
- Surplus	0	0	12	0	14	0	0	0	5	16	73	
Subsoil moisture (Percent) - Short	62	0	0	0	0	50	8	9	16	15	1	
- Adequate	38	93	94	100	77	50	92	91	77	81	40	
- Surplus	0	7	6	0	23	0	0	0	7	4	59	

n/a = not available.

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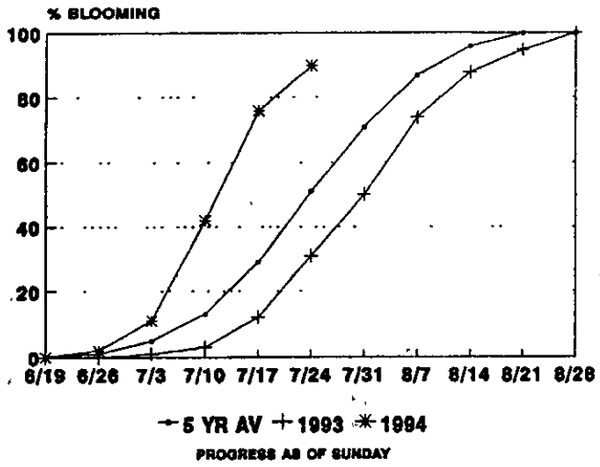
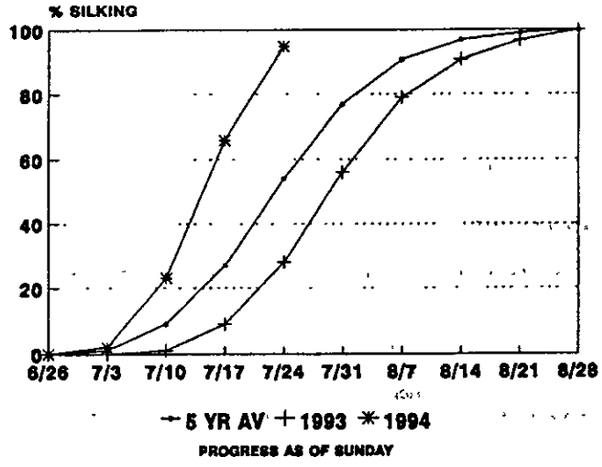
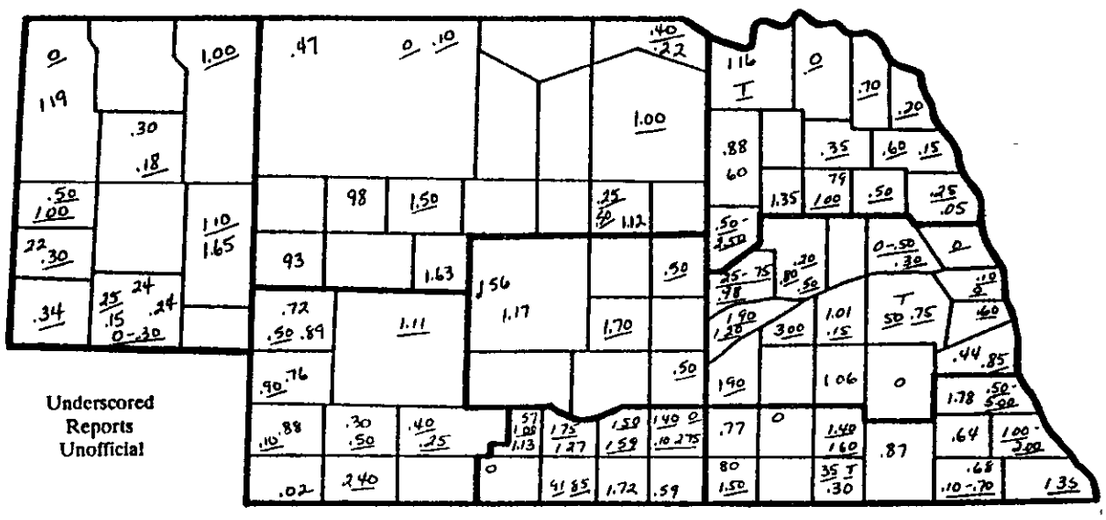
SOYBEANS BLOOMING



CORN SILKING



PRECIPITATION MAP FOR WEEK ENDING FRIDAY, JULY 22, 1994



PRECIPITATION, APRIL 1 - JULY 22, 1994

	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.57	.89	.81	1.37	.50	.60	.88	.73
Total since April 1	6.90	12.03	12.20	13.46	14.57	9.22	13.01	13.30
Normal since April 1	9.54	11.27	12.73	12.09	13.37	10.32	12.05	13.79
Total as % of normal	72%	107%	96%	111%	109%	89%	108%	96%

TEMPERATURE, PRECIPITATION, AND GROWING DEGREE DAY DATA, WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JULY 24, 1994

	Station	Temperature				Precipitation	Growing Degree Data Since April 15		
		Extremes		Mean	Departure	Total	Last	Current	Normal
		Max	Min			Inches 1/	Week		
NW	Chadron	102	49	73	---	T	---	---	---
	Scottsbluff	98	51	72	-3	.36	1501	1641	1488
	Sidney	98	50	72	---	.19	1420	1557	1359
NC	Valentine	95	49	71	-5	.05	---	---	---
	Arthur	---	---	---	---	---	1420	1561	1378
	O'Neill	---	---	---	---	---	1469	1617	1575
NE	Norfolk	91	58	74	-2	.38	---	---	---
	Sioux City	90	58	73	-3	T	---	---	---
	Concord	---	---	---	---	---	1536	1678	1652
	Elgin	---	---	---	---	---	1527	1677	1590
	West Point	---	---	---	---	---	1642	1794	1688
CEN	Grand Island	89	56	73	-4	.20	---	---	---
	Ord	94	52	73	---	0	1584	1734	1614
	Wood River	---	---	---	---	---	1636	1786	1753
EC	Lincoln	91	55	73	-5	.02	1762	1936	1820
	Omaha	94	58	75	-3	.10	---	---	---
	Central City	---	---	---	---	---	1660	1809	1775
	Mead	---	---	---	---	---	1663	1817	1768
	Rising City	---	---	---	---	---	1637	1790	1739
SW	Imperial	95	53	73	---	.29	---	---	---
	North Platte	91	52	72	-3	.58	1530	1669	1541
	McCook	---	---	---	---	---	1692	1846	1713
SC	Holdrege	---	---	---	---	---	1648	1803	1700
	Red Cloud	---	---	---	---	---	1698	1856	1753
SE	Beatrice	---	---	---	---	---	1701	1862	1760
	Clay Center	---	---	---	---	---	1666	1816	1722

1/ Precipitation totals not included in map above.

Growing Degree Days (GDD) are used to measure the length of time required for a crop to reach maturity. The formula used to calculate GDD is: Max. temp. + min. temp. divided by 2 minus 50 = GDD. For example, if the average temperature for a day = 70 degrees, the GDD = 20 for that day. GDD are calculated for each day and accumulated from April 15.

Growing Degree Day data is furnished by the Department of Agricultural Meteorology, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, The University of Nebraska-Lincoln.